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ABSTRACT

Information about school dropouts and those who complete their high school educations late is summarized in a table and two graphs using information from the High School and Beyond Survey and the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988. In 1990, 7 percent of the eighth-grade class of 1988 were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not finished high school. In 1992, 12 percent were dropouts. Eighty-four percent of the sophomore class of 1980 completed high school on time (by 1982), and about two-thirds of the remaining 16 percent (10 percent) completed high school over the next 10 years, the vast majority within the first 4 years. The final completion rate as of 1992 was 93.7 percent. Among the sophomores of 1980, Whites and Asian Americans were more likely to complete high school on time than were Blacks, Hispanic Americans, or American Indians. In 1992, American Indians, the group with the highest dropout rate, dropped out at a rate of over 25 percent. In 1992, the urban dropout rate was 13.7 percent, the rural dropout rate was 12.5 percent, and the suburban dropout rate was 9.6 percent. The dropout rate was highest in the South and lowest in the Northeast. (SLD)

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INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

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Dropouts and late completers

Dropping out of school occurs for a variety of reasons and at various times. Many dropouts later complete their high school education, either by returning to school to earn a diploma or by obtaining an alternative credential. Such actions may lessen the consequences of dropping out of school.

- **In 1990, 7 percent of the eighth-grade class of 1988 (most of whom were then 15 and 16 years old) were dropouts, that is, they were not enrolled in school and had not finished high school. In 1992, 12 percent were dropouts.**
- **Eighty-four percent of the sophomore class of 1980 completed high school on time (by 1982). About two-thirds of the remaining 16 percent (10 percent) completed high school over the next 10 years, and the vast majority of these (8 percent) completed within the first four years (by 1986).**
- **Among the sophomore class of 1980, white and Asian students were more likely to complete high school on time (by 1982) than black, Hispanic, or American Indian students.**

Dropout rates for the eighth-grade class of 1988 and high school completion rates for the tenth-grade class of 1980, by selected background and school characteristics

Characteristics	Dropout rate for the eighth-grade class of 1988 in:[1]		High school completion rates for the tenth-grade class of 1980:			
	1990	1992	Completed on time (June 1982)	Completed between 1982 and 1986	Completed between 1986 and 1992	Completion rate 1992
Total	6.8	11.6	83.6	8.3	1.7	93.7
Sex						
Male	7.2	11.6	81.5	9.9	1.5	93.0
Female	6.5	11.6	85.8	6.8	2.0	94.4
Race/ethnicity[2]						
White	5.2	9.4	85.7	7.4	1.6	94.7
Black	10.2	14.5	78.9	11.4	1.9	92.2
Hispanic	9.6	18.3	72.6	11.9	2.8	87.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.0	7.0	90.8	7.7	0.9	99.4
American Indian	9.2	25.4	65.4	12.0	4.3	81.7
Metropolitan status						
Urban	8.9	13.7	76.4	11.7	2.4	90.6
Suburban	5.4	9.6	85.8	8.0	1.2	95.1
Rural	7.1	12.5	85.1	6.4	2.2	93.7
Region						
Northeast	5.9	8.4	85.8	9.2	1.5	96.8
North Central	5.5	10.4	84.3	8.0	1.7	94.2
South	8.9	13.8	82.9	7.8	2.0	92.8
West	5.8	12.2	80.8	8.6	1.5	91.0
Control of school						
Public	7.6	12.7	82.5	8.8	1.9	93.2
Catholic	1.3	3.8	95.2	3.6	0.1	98.9
Other private	0.4	2.1	93.2	4.1	0.2	97.5

[1]Dropouts are those not enrolled in school and who have not received a high school diploma or equivalency certificate.
[2]Not shown separately for the eighth-grade class of 1988 are 434 persons whose race/ethnicity is unknown.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, High School and Beyond (Sophomore Cohort), and National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (Student and Dropout Surveys).

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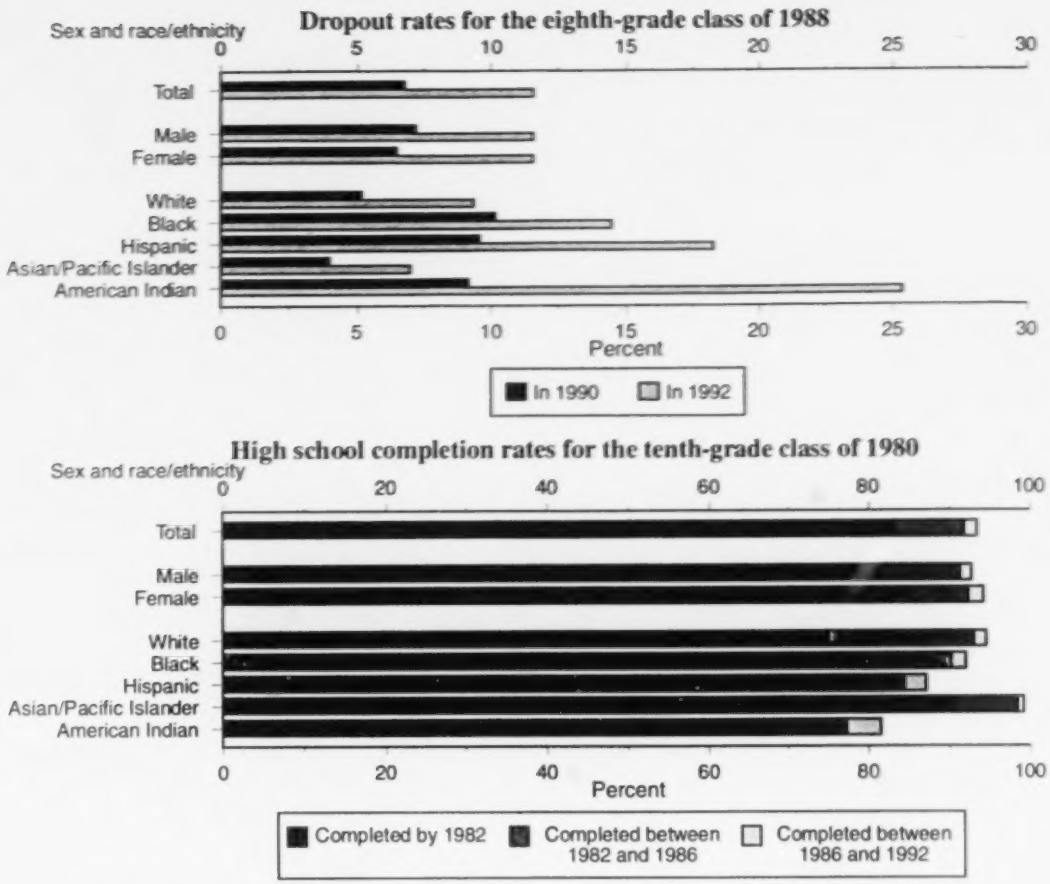
Dropout and completion rates, by sex and race/ethnicity



SOURCE: U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, High School and Beyond (Sophomore Cohort) and National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (Student and Dropout Surveys).

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